

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 220886

73

ORIGIN COME-00

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 EB-11 AS-01 DODE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 TRSE-00 AEC-11 CIAE-00 PM-07 NSC-10 SPC-03

SS-20 L-03 MC-02 /080 R

66617

DRAFTED BY: BCABP/TCED:LCSANTONE/GRDELGADO

APPROVED BY: EB/OCA/REP:GPWILSON

STATE/AF/C:JHDIGGS

FAOCWIEJA

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R 082148Z NOV 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE

UNCLAS STATE 220886

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: ETRN GB/US

SUBJ: GOG ACQUISITION OF SWIFTSIPS CRAFT

REF: LIBREVILLE 0966

1. CONTACTED WASHINGTON REP OF SWIFTSIPS WHO FAMILIAR WITH TRANSACTION REFTEL. HE ADVISED CONFUSION PARTIALLY DUE TO CHANGE IN PLANS OF GOG, WHOSE ORIGINAL INTENTIONS WERE ACQUIRING TWO 105 FT. BOATS TO BE EQUIPPED WITH ARMAMENT AS DESCRIBED PARA. 2 URTEL.

2. MEETING DURING PRES. BONGO'S VISIT ONLY RESULTED IN LETTER OF INTENT. NO CONTRACT HAS BEEN SIGNED.

3. SWIFTSIPS WILL NOT BECOME INVOLVED IN SECURING ARMAMENT, BUT WILLING AND ABLE ASSIST GOG IN ITS PROCUREMENT. CONSIDER BOFORS AND OERLIKONS INADVISABLE BECAUSE OF SHORTAGE OF AMMO. WOULD SUGGEST US GUNS.

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PAGE 02 STATE 220886

4. VISIT BY HOFFPAUIR OF SWIFTSIPS TO GABON AFTER PRES.

BONGO'S VISIT RESULTED IN CHANGE OF PLANS, TO INCLUDE ACQUISITION OF ONE 65 FOOTER IN ADDITION TO TWO 105 FOOTERS. SUCH ALTERNATIVE WOULD ALTER SPECS AS 105 FT. BOAT HAS THREE ENGINES, 65 FT. BOAT ONLY TWO. ARMAMENT FOR 105 FOOTER WOULD BE EXCESSIVE FOR 65 FOOTER. SWIFTSIPS SUGGESTED 65 FOOTER ARMAMENT BE CHANGED FOR THIS BOAT MEANT FOR TRAINING.

5. SWIFTSIPS AMENABLE TO TRAINING GABONESE CREWS, BUT CONSIDER ATLANTIC CROSSING BY INEXPERIENCED CREW EXTREMELY PERILOUS FOR 105 FT. BOAT. CROSSING BY 65 FOOTER UNTHK-ABLE, ERGO SUGGESTION F DECK LOADING ON FREIGHTER.

6. SWIFTSIPS AND WASHINGTON REP WELCOME VISIT OF GABONESE TEAM TO CLEAR UP CONFUSION AND DISCUSS ALTERNATIVE WITH THEM. RUSH

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptoning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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